

The Colonist.

MONDAY, JUNE 12, 1898.

THE CONVENTION.

Last night's conference was a capital one, full of enthusiasm and thoroughly harmonious. Its key note was "British Columbia first and always." It was thoroughly non-partisan so far as federal party lines are concerned.

Concerning the gentlemen nominated there will be much to say hereafter. At present it is only necessary for the Colonist to give them an assurance of its hearty support, to commend them to the voters of Victoria and express its full confidence in their success. It is perfectly true that the convention would have nominated the five gentlemen named if such a thing had been possible. Hon. Mr. Turner's statement that probably another constituency would offer Mr. Hunter a nomination was received with applause.

THE PREMIER'S MOVEMENTS.

Hon. Mr. Turner has been detained in Victoria by important negotiations in regard to railway construction. These are in an advanced stage, but cannot be concluded until the arrival of a gentleman, now on his way to the city. Mr. Turner expects to be able to close the negotiations and make a definite announcement of the result on Monday next and to leave this city for the mainland on Monday night.

AN APPRECIATIVE EXPRESSION OF OPINION.

A gentleman in Winnipeg, and an old resident, who as a professional man and as a politician has been quite prominent there, writes to the Premier in the matter of "Cheap Money," requesting a copy of the act. Incidentally he remarks:

"I do not remember of having received at any time of my life (I am 77 years old) as much cause for real moral rejoicing as when I read in the Manitoba Free Press an editorial on 'A Co-operative Bank' in British Columbia. At least I saw my dream of thirty years' standing about to be realized—at the hands of a man who was found on the American Continent with moral courage enough to liberate the producers from the thralldom and the severe bondage of the money-lenders and private banks."

The editorial in the Free Press to which reference is made has the following by way of introduction:

An example of advanced legislation that gives promise of serving a useful purpose come from British Columbia, a province that in government as in other things is displaying great intelligence and enterprise and showing the way to the rest of the Dominion.

THE NECESSITY FOR ACTION.

The Colonist has been told that its agitation for pressure upon the Dominion government to secure fair play to the province is a mistake, that nothing can be accomplished excepting through the instrumentality of party politics and that British Columbia must wait until its population is large enough to entitle it to sufficient representation to give it weight at Ottawa. Against the application of the principle of "Live horse and the grass will grow," to the admitted necessities of this portion of the Dominion, we most emphatically protest.

The uselessness of looking to such a source for relief will be apparent if we consider for a little the principle upon which the representation of the provinces in parliament is adjusted. The British North America act of 1867 provides that the representation of the provinces shall be readjusted on the completion of the census every ten years and that the apportionment of members shall be determined by allowing to Quebec 65 and to each of the other provinces such a number of members as will bear the same proportion to the number of its population as 65 bears to the population of Quebec.

The next readjustment will therefore take place in 1901, in which year there will, if the present parliament lasts out its natural term, be another general election which doubtless will be held after the readjustment has taken place. The next readjustment after 1901 would take place in 1911. The province, therefore, may have an increase in its representation in 1901 and another increase in 1911. But though we say such an increase may take place in 1901, it is quite uncertain that it will take place. The population of Quebec in 1891 was 1,488,535. It is admitted that since 1891 there has not been so great an exodus from Quebec as there was in the previous decade, when the increase of population was 8.53 per cent. In the decade preceding 1891 the increase was 14 per cent, and we think it reasonable to suppose that during the current decade there will be as great an augmentation of the population of that province as there was between 1871 and 1880.

If that is the case, the population of Quebec in 1901 will be 1,688,535. Dividing this by 65, we find it gives one member to every 25,965 inhabitants. Under the terms of the union with Canada British Columbia is entitled to six members, but in fixing this number the population of the province was kept in account. When it comes to the question of redistribution, however, we may be very sure that the same rule will be applied to us as will be applied to the other provinces, and that we will only get new members when we show a population that entitles us to it under the strict terms of the B. N. A. act. Rejecting old numbers in the above calculation and placing the measure of representation in 1901 at one member for 25,000 people, we find that unless British Columbia has a population of 150,000 in that year it will not have attained a sufficient number of inhabitants to make its representation proportionate to its population, and in order that we may receive one additional member in 1901, the census of that year must show that the population of the province is upwards of 152,500, the Con-

federation act providing that in the calculation of representation, if after dividing the population by the unit of representation the remainder is more than one half of such unit, the province shall have one representative for such remainder. Therefore, to entitle this province to one more representative in 1901, we must have upwards of 152,500 people in British Columbia. To entitle it to two additional members, we must have a population of upwards of 187,500, and so on. There is a prospect that we may in the next three years witness such an increase of population as will entitle us to one additional member, but it is also very clear that the other provinces will have additional representatives; so that the numerical influence of the British Columbia contingent will be no greater after 1901 than now. As the next readjustment will not take place until 1911, it is hardly worth while making any calculation about what we may expect then. A good many of us will be dead by that time. A good many will have given up the race for business success, and conditions will have so changed that speculation as to what will then take place is utterly useless.

These facts show how utterly futile it is to ask the people of British Columbia to wait until the population of the province increases before endeavoring to make the justice of their claim upon the Dominion felt at Ottawa. It has been said also that the comments of the Colonist upon the conduct of our representatives have been needlessly severe, and useless at Ottawa than the public think. We are told that while in theory it is well enough to talk about our representatives making fight for provincial rights, when a man gets to Ottawa and realizes the conditions existing there he will find how helpless he is. The Colonist appreciates the force of all this. It realizes that no one man can go into the parliament of Canada and by the sheer force of his own ability and pertinacity compel the recognition of our rights. We admit even more than this, namely, that our whole delegation should act as a unit and persistently urge upon the consideration of those in authority the necessity for doing justice to the province the political exigencies which would be encountered would be very likely to defeat their best planned efforts. But if the province speaks as a province, if the 30,000 or more voters of British Columbia unite in a demand for justice, if a provincial government, backed by a good, strong legislative majority, goes to Ottawa with a demand for fair play, if the strong merits of our case are laid before the government, the parliament and the people of Canada, then our parliamentary delegation will be able to speak with a force and with a result that they cannot hope to reach at present. It is for this reason that we urge the voters of British Columbia, in the elections so soon to take place, to remember that in supporting Hon. Mr. Turner they are supporting a leader who stands pledged to securing recognition at Ottawa of the indisputable claims of British Columbia for better treatment at the hands of parliament.

SOME MAINLAND CONSTITUENTS.

Chilliwack, Dewdney, New Westminster, Richmond, the Delta form a group of ridings which have much in common. These five ridings have been represented in the legislature for the last four years by opposition candidates, Messrs. Sword, Vedder, Kennedy, Kidd and Forster were as persistent and unvarying in their hostility to anything which the government could do or suggest as could well be imagined. It can be charged against them, without fear that they can successfully deny it, that notwithstanding the many directions in which their constituents could be benefited by legislation, they failed to initiate or even suggest a single measure for that purpose. We are not unmindful of the parliamentary rule under which or expenditure rests with the government; but the rule was not intended, nor is it in other legislatures employed as a clog upon the intelligence and patriotism of private members. If a member of the legislature who is not a member of the government desires to impress upon the house the necessity of legislation in any given direction, there are many ways in which he can give effect to his desire. The gentlemen named have either been too dense to realize how they might do this, or too indifferent to the welfare of their constituents to avail themselves of the many opportunities. The Colonist thinks the latter explanation the correct one, because it has observed that, when questions of parliamentary procedure were up for discussion, the gentlemen named were never backward in showing their erudition. We say without hesitation that the gentlemen referred to stand chargeable before the bar of public opinion with indifference to the needs of the constituencies which they represented. They were actuated during their membership solely by a desire to vex and harass the government. No man who has kept track of the doings of the last four sessions will question what we say. Many measures have been introduced by the government for the benefit of the community generally. Important works have been undertaken and important legislation has been put upon the statute book, especially for the benefit of the farmers of the Fraser valley. This is the government side of the account. On the opposition side, we repeat, there is not even a valuable suggestion. It is no time that the people of that important and progressive section of the province cast aside the men who have shown themselves so useless when it came to the devising of measures or the suggestion of policy for the benefit of the district.

IT WOULD NOT BE DIFFICULT FOR ONE WHO

has watched the course of these gentlemen in the legislature to forecast the character of the canvass which they will make. Beginning at the Delta, we

have Mr. Forster who is unquestionably the most rabid demagogue in British Columbia. Nature gave him a glib tongue and a feeling of perfect irresponsibility. In his private relations, Mr. Forster is undoubtedly a very likeable man and doubtless perfectly trustworthy. When he gets upon his feet to speak on political questions, the transformation is as complete as from Dr. Jekyll to Mr. Hyde. He flings out assertions of the wildest character with the abandonment of a man possessed of no sense of responsibility. The reputations of public men are to him upon such occasions unworthy of the slightest consideration. He will talk of corruption as though it was a thing to be expected from every man in office. Like the Populist of the United States, to whom every man in office, except himself, is necessarily dishonest, and every individual or corporation possessed of means and energy, a robber in respect, means and energy, Mr. Forster will paint in lurid colors the awful iniquities which the province is burdened with. One stands aghast at the quality of mind which is capable of evolving from his imagination such conceptions of political and business honesty as Mr. Forster affects to have discovered in British Columbia. He is a dangerous man, not to the government, but to the province. He is a dangerous man because his teachings are infectious, because they breed dissatisfaction, because his recklessness leads him to make assertions which may be, and have been, used abroad to the detriment of the province as a home for settlers and a place for investment. His jeremiads, which he employs for the purpose of inducing the farmers of his constituency to select him as their champion, are all based upon the false assumption that the people of the Delta are groaning in poverty, burdened with debt and crippled by taxation. It may suit Mr. Forster's purpose to make such representations where he thinks they will influence voters, but it is literally true that his constant repetition of such slanders upon his neighbors—for slanders they are—is calculated to destroy their credit as individuals and the credit of the community in the eyes of the outside world. If the electors of the Delta act wisely, they will on the 9th of July select as their representative Mr. Benson, a gentleman whose interests have been identified with their constituency for many years, who is deeply concerned not only that wise legislation should be enacted at Victoria, but that the Delta should have lifted from it the cloud of calumnies which Mr. Forster and his co-opponents have evolved for the purpose of blinding the voters to the true nature of the policy of the government, and thereby take their own efforts to secure a better government. If Mr. Forster could, by maligning his constituency and representing it before the eyes of the world as in an almost desperate condition, climb into the cabinet and become in receipt of the comfortable salary of a minister, his ambition would be satisfied, but we fail to see how the Delta would be benefited.

Concerning Mr. Kidd, who has represented Richmond, there is not so much to be said. Mr. Kidd is a gentleman of ability and, while of a decidedly pessimistic turn, is not open to the charge of demagoguery which we have preferred against Mr. Forster. It would, however, be a forced compliment to describe him as a useful member of the house. He is a respectable member, but his contributions to the work of legislation and the development of policies are so few that it would puzzle the most frequent habitue of the legislative chamber to recall a single instance. In Mr. McQueen who will oppose him in the government interests, Richmond will have a representative who will be in touch with all that is best, most vigorous and most progressive in the public life of British Columbia.

In Dewdney, we have Mr. Sword for the opposition and Mr. McBride for the government. It is not necessary for the Colonist to repeat what it has said on several occasions recently in regard to Mr. Sword. He is a gentleman for whom this paper entertains a great respect, but it feels that his days of legislative usefulness have passed. His capacity for verbal criticism has become almost a passion with him, and has so absorbed his other faculties as to render him unfit for the creative work, which every constituency in British Columbia expects at this time from its representatives. During the recent session Mr. Sword permitted himself to be made a tool of by Mr. Forster in his policy of obstruction, whereby his influence in the house was completely shattered. With the kindest possible feelings towards him, the Colonist feels constrained to say that British Columbia in its progress and its advancement, in its development of new ideas, in its broadening aspirations, has passed Mr. Sword by, and it behooves his former constituents, while they may justly continue to entertain for him that high feeling of respect to which he is entitled, to permit him now to step upon such laurels as he has won, and select as a representative a man who will be in harmony with the spirit of improvement now in the air, and without which the future of this great province would be full of disappointments.

In New Westminster, we have in Mr. Brown, the opposition candidate, a representative of the old-fashioned and rank partisanship, the two elements which have done more than anything else to retard the province. In Mr. Henderson, his opponent, we find exemplified the progressive and independent spirit of the day. And just here a word in regard to independence in local politics. It is quite true that there is no place in our politics for an independent party. It is equally true that candidates ought on coming forward for election to give the voters to understand explicitly where they will be found on a party vote in the house. At the same time, there can

be no valid objection to a candidate declaring himself to be an independent supporter of the government. Independent support is all that a government can reasonably ask for, by which we mean the support of a representative who is prepared to stand by the ministry unless it is found hereafter underserving of its endorsement. An independent supporter of the government, such as Mr. Henderson is, must be taken to approve of the general policy of the administration in the past, of the general character of its personnel, and of the lines of policy which it indicates for the future. This we understand Mr. Henderson to do. More than this the government has not asked of any of its supporters.

There remains Chilliwack to be spoken of. A large number of the voters of this riding have requested Hon. Mr. Turner to allow himself to be placed in nomination and he has acceded to their wishes. He will doubtless contest the constituency with success. If elected for it, Chilliwack would be fortunate in having Mr. Turner charged with the responsibility for its interests in the government and legislature. Mr. Turner has shown during the last few years that he is thoroughly appreciative of the interests of the farming interests and determined to do all in his power to advance them. Substantially all the legislation of British Columbia for the peculiar benefit of the farmers owes its initiation to him. It is therefore highly fitting that a constituency composed almost exclusively of farmers should offer him a nomination. It will be singularly appropriate if he is elected by such a constituency, and if the other farming constituencies of that splendid river valley and the adjacent riding of Richmond send an unbroken delegation to Victoria at his back. The time seems to have come for a new departure in this part of the province. For four years its representatives have done nothing but hamper the government which sought to advance its interests. It is worth trying the experiment of having representatives who will assist the government in such efforts. We feel that we can say with certainty that the province at large will return Hon. Mr. Turner to power with at least as large a majority as he had in the last house, and under these circumstances it would seem utterly pointless for the constituencies to which reference has been made in this article to select opposition candidates. They have a choice between having such spokesmen as incendiary Mr. Forster, with such reactionaries as Messrs. Brown, Sword, Kidd and Vedder to assist him in four years more of misrepresentation and calumny, and the Premier of the province—a gentleman who is growing in public esteem and in strong support by progressive, energetic and intelligent men like Messrs. Benson, Henderson, McQueen and McBride. It ought not to be difficult for them to make a choice.

Local politics have almost obscured Dominion matters in this province for a few months past; but even during the heat of a local election, it is worth while taking note of the vast sum which the present federal ministry has asked parliament to appropriate during the present session. The amount is \$47,970,947, of which \$40,987,812 is out of revenue and the balance out of borrowed money. This is the greatest expenditure made by Canada in any year since the union, and it is four millions more than the Conservatives expended during the last year of their regime. Without pretending now to pass judgment upon the merits of the several expenditures, this much may be said in passing, that it forever closes the mouths of the Liberals on the subject of economy.

HER FRIEND THE BACHELOR.

Uses of Three Meals a Day as an Anchor for Man.

It seems that man is not only sustained, but also anchored by his three daily meals, observes the New York Sun. At least that is a Brooklyn lawyer's idea. The statement was made in a convention with a young woman.

"I can't imagine what the matter with Archie," she said, with a regretful sigh. "He is the most changed person I've ever seen. Why, he isn't at all the same man he was when he had an apartment in the family hotel. I don't believe that bachelor apartment life agrees with him. I never," she emphasized, "saw such a crank as he is now."

"Oh, you never know where you will find him, physically or mentally," promptly answered the girl. "It used to be that I could always count on old Archie, and so could all his girl friends, but none of them now. I think he is when you least expect him, never comes when we really need him, and, if he does come, he is altogether for weeks at a time, and when he turns up again, is no more capable of giving an account of himself than a babe in arms. How is it with you? Do you ever see him next?"

"Yes, I see him frequently," answered the lawyer, "and I know he has changed, but, you see, I know the cause."

"In love?" asked the girl, with an attempt at playful indifference. "Archie is a fair example of the restaurant waiter. Don't you remember what a steady chap he was when he had an apartment in the family hotel? He kept regular hours, spent a lot of his spare time in the society of his women friends, read a great deal and took an interest in everything that was going on."

"But to get back to Archie as a fair example of the restaurant waiter. Don't you remember what a steady chap he was when he had an apartment in the family hotel? He kept regular hours, spent a lot of his spare time in the society of his women friends, read a great deal and took an interest in everything that was going on."

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Man! Where Is Your Strength?



Where is the vigor given you by nature? Where is your manly bearing, your hearty grasp of the hand? Have you wasted it in excesses and dissipation? Is it gone? Is the world full of bitterness to you? Are your days spent in brooding over your trouble and your nights in restless tossing.

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If it costs Uncle Sam 1,500 lives to capture one Spaniard, how many of the 17 lower candidates for senatorial honors will make one attorney general?

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Strawberries now in—Mrs. Ashley Sharpless picked every morning and evening.

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Fly Paper, Tanglefoot, 40c box.

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THE SHOCK CAUSED DEATH.

William Heaney Dies as a Result of the Accident of Saturday Last.

William Heaney died early yesterday morning of the shock and injuries he received in the accident on Saturday last.

An old man, 75 years of age, he was driving along Superior street in a carriage, the cover of which was up, preventing him from seeing a car coming along behind him. As Mr. Heaney reached the entrance to his stable, he turned his horse in, crossing the track. According to the motorman in charge of the car, Mr. H. Willard, the car was within a very short distance of the carriage, when the horse crossed the track, and although he applied the brakes, he could not bring the car to a standstill in time to prevent it from striking the hind wheels of the carriage.

Mr. Heaney was thrown out, and received a scalp wound extending across the forehead and his back was a serious injury. Mr. Heaney was attended by Dr. Frank Hall, who attended the injured man, says death was caused by the shock. Mr. Heaney being very old and consequently feeble. Dr. O'Connell will hold an inquest today to decide whether blame can be attached to any one for the accident.

The deceased regained consciousness after the accident and recognized the members of his family. He leaves three sons, engaged in the truck and dray business in this city, widow and four daughters. Mrs. W. Bryce, of Victoria, Mrs. McKinnon, of Rossland, and two unmarried daughters. He was a native of County Down, Ireland.

The funeral will take place on Sunday at 2:30 from the family residence, 119 Superior street.

The case of Marshall v. Baker, an action by plaintiff Charles Marshall for \$2,340 claimed as a balance due on loans to defendant, opened yesterday before Mr. Justice Walkem. Defendant on the other hand denies the loan and says it was money paid for plaintiff's share in a real estate transaction. The case goes on again to-day. Mr. H. D. Helmenken, Q.C., for plaintiff, Mr. W. J. Taylor for defendant.

At the close of Wednesday evening's session of the licensing commissioners Rev. J. C. Speer and P. C. L. Harris and Dr. Lewis Hall had a long but informal talk with Mayor Redfern and Magistrate Macrae as police commissioners. The morals of the city were discussed. In an interview yesterday, Dr. Hall, who takes great interest in reform movements, said he recognized that it was the law and not the administrators who were to blame.

The annual children's flower service will be held at Christ church cathedral on Sunday afternoon at half past three.